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To: Energy & Technology Committee Members

From: Jennifer Evans, West Hartford Community Television, Executive Director

**Written Testimony Supporting Raised Bill No. 6458  
An Act Concerning Periodic Review of Video Providers**

West Hartford Community Television writes in support of Raised Bill No. 6458, AAC Periodic Review of Video Providers as presented. PA-07-253, adopted and incorporated in the Connecticut General Statutes as of October 1, 2007, provided the opportunity for all providers to receive a certificate with no term limits or review.<sup>1</sup>

Raised Bill 6458 creates a mechanism for effective performance review of all video providers every two years that will provide the opportunity for consumers and community television advocates to bring forward concerns and issues that arise as a result of emerging technologies. Subscribers will benefit from ongoing evaluation by the DPUC with full participation by the Office of Consumer Counsel, Attorney General, PEG Providers and the local advisory councils.

Technological, economic and behavioral changes are dramatically altering how we communicate. Communications industry innovations and consolidation have left community television as the only hyper-local non-commercial media. Community television serves as an "electronic greenspace," the public park of media, where all people are empowered to participate at a grass-roots local level and have a voice.

The performance review created by this bill will provide the opportunity for issues to be raised to ensure that community television remains a viable resource going forward. Often a review can illustrate weak points or gaps that may require different procedures or additional training.

The bill creates a level playing field that ensures all providers perform within the objectives of law. More importantly, this performance review will help create a culture of compliance with existing law that will help all providers better serve their customers.

<sup>1</sup> Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2007*) (a) An entity or person, other than a community antenna television company certified to provide community antenna television service pursuant to section 16-331 of the general statutes on or before October 1, 2007, or an affiliate, successor or assign of such community antenna television company, seeking to provide video service in the state on and after October 1, 2007, shall file with the Department of Public Utility Control an application for a certificate of video franchise authority, containing such information as required by this section. A community antenna television company may apply for a certificate of video franchise authority pursuant to this section for any service area in which it was not certified to provide community antenna television service pursuant to section 16-331 of the general statutes on or before October 1, 2007. The application shall be accompanied by a fee of one thousand dollars.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, any entity, other than a community antenna television company certified to provide community antenna television service pursuant to section 16-331 of the general statutes on or before October 1, 2007, that was offering video service in the state on or before October 1, 2007, shall be required to file its application for a certificate of video franchise authority on or before October 31, 2007, and shall be allowed to continue to offer such video service while its application for a certificate of video franchise authority is pending.

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Comcast Channels 5, 95 & 96    AT&T U-verse Menu 99    Online and On Demand on whctv.org  
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*For the Community, by the Community*